

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fiber comprising two or more lobes extending from a central core; wherein the two or more lobes are equally spaced about an outer periphery of the central core; wherein each lobe has a substantially similar lobal cross-sectional configuration comprising at least three concave portions, at least two convex portions, and at least four inflection points along an outer perimeter of each lobal cross-sectional area, and wherein a maximum distance between adjacent lobes is located between adjacent areas of maximum width of each of said adjacent lobes.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The fiber of Claim 1, wherein each lobe contains three concave portions, two convex portions, and four inflection points along the outer perimeter of the lobal cross-sectional area; wherein the concave portions, the convex portions, and the inflection points along the outer perimeter of the lobal cross-sectional area forms a symmetrical pathway such that a lobe-dissecting line extending from a fiber central axis through a central portion of the lobe dissects the lobe into two substantially identical lobal portions on each side of the lobe-dissecting line.

4. (Original) The fiber of Claim 3, wherein the fiber has a forked trilobal fiber cross-sectional configuration, wherein each lobe comprises only concave portions, convex portions, and inflection points in a sequence of components comprising a first concave portion, a first inflection point, a first convex portion, a second inflection point, a second concave portion, a third inflection point, a second convex portion, a fourth inflection point, and a third concave portion.

5. (Original) The fiber of Claim 4, wherein the fiber is substantially free of flat surfaces along an outer perimeter of the forked tri-lobal fiber.

6. (Currently Amended) The fiber of Claim 3, wherein lines extending from inflection points at said areas of maximum width of each of said ~~located between~~ adjacent lobes are either parallel to one another or divergent relative to one another.

7. (Original) The fiber of Claim 1 having a fiber cross-sectional area as shown in FIG. 1.

8 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The fiber of Claim 1, wherein the fiber comprises a polyamide selected from nylon 6, nylon 6/6, nylon 6/9, nylon 6/10, nylon 6/12, nylon 11, nylon 12, and copolymers thereof.

24. (Original) The fiber of Claim 23, wherein the fiber comprises a monocomponent fiber comprising a single polyamide selected from nylon 6 and nylon 6/6.

25. (Original) The fiber of Claim 3, wherein the fiber has a fiber core thickness ranging from about 15.0 μm to about 18.0 μm , a minimum thickness of lobe component (t_{min}) ranging from about 9.0 μm to about 15.0 μm , a maximum thickness of lobe component (t_{max}) ranging from about 230 μm to about 350 μm , and a length of lobe ranging from about 215 μm to about 335 μm .

26 - 31 (Cancelled)